The Government of Nagaland has informed that the State of Nagaland is predominantly inhabited by members of Scheduled Tribe communities who are governed by their customary laws and social practice. On consideration of the peculiarity of the tribal conditions, the State Government of Nagaland does not consider it necessary to set up such Family Courts in the State.

The UT Administration of Chandigarh has informed that a reference was made to the Punjab and Haryana High Court for setting up of a Family Court and for appointment of a person to be Judge of the Family Court for the Union Territory of Chandigarh. However, the High Court has declined the request of the UT as the population figure has not exceeded one million mark.

The UT Administration of Dadra and Nagar Haveli has informed that Dadra and Nagar Haveli is a small Union Territory having population of about 2.3 lakhs whereas as per Rule 3 of the Family Courts Act, Family Courts are to be established for a population of at least one million. Family Courts have, therefore, not been set up in the UT. Further the UT had requested the Bombay High Court for the details of cases pending before the District Court, Silvassa which may be triable by the Family Courts. According to the information furnished by the High Court, there are only 68 cases pending in the UT which are triable by Family Courts.

The UT Administration of Daman and Diu has informed that the UT has sought concurrence of the High Court of Bombay for establishment of Family Court at Daman and Diu. The High Court has informed that the Recruitment Rules for the Ministerial staff (Non-Gazetted) in the Family Courts have not yet been approved by the State Government of Maharashtra. In view of this, the UT is not in a position to take any action in the matter.

(c) and (d) At present 96 Family Courts are functioning in the country. 1,54,513 cases have been disposed of by the Family Courts during the last three years. Keeping in view the number of cases disposed of by the Family Courts, it is expected that the setting up of new Family Courts will reduce burden of pending cases in the subordinate courts to some extent.

Fast track courts in Andhra Pradesh

41. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government of Andhra Pradesh has not set up the earmarked number of fast track courts in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons put forth by the State in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to ensure that the State sets up the earmarked number of fast track courts in the State within a time-frame?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per available information, out of the 86 fast track courts earmarked for the State 46 fast track courts have been established by Government of Andhra Pradesh. Out of above, 22 courts are already functioning and the remaining 24 fast track courts are likely to be functional soon.

According to the Registry of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh, the main reason why the said courts could not be established is the non-availability of accommodation in the existing court buildings. However, construction of 86 court buildings for the fast track court is under progress. After the completion of the said court buildings, the remaining 40 fast track courts will also start functioning.

(c) The then Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs *vide* his letter dated 27th May, 2002 has requested the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to set up full number of fast track courts within three months as directed by the Supreme Court on 6th May, 2002, in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs*, Union of India and Others.

Purchase of information technology products

42. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Audit has objected to ad-hoc purchase of information technology products and flouting rules of purchase by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed against those responsible for purchase favouring a single party despite inflated prices quoted by it which was much higher than DGS&D rates and market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Local Audit Party of C & A G during annual inspection of the accounts/records of the Ministry for the year 2001- 2002 had sought certain clarifications, which have already been provided to them.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.